

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Federal Ordnance Inventory Number: Sm-543
Address: 26100 Friendship School Road City: Mechanicsville Zip Code: 20659
County: St Mary's USGS Topographic Map: _____
Owner: _____ Is the property being evaluated a district? ☒ No
Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
Project: Proposed Oakville Cell Tower Agency: FCC
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☒ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:
Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Inventory Form

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The mid-20th Century Federal Ordnance building is architecturally unique for St Mary's County. The flat-roof International Style building retains much integrity on the exterior, however, it is the only remaining building of the formerly 800- acre manufacturing site. The office building represents an interesting development in architectural style for a military installation but the context for which the Federal Ordnance would be significant that is the manufacturing buildings and site layout have been demolished. The office stands in isolation conveying little about the history of the military industrial complex located here in the 1950s. The building is unique only because of its location, not as a notable example of mid-20th Century architecture that could be listed individually. A multi-property listing of similar buildings that together illustrate the influence of popular contemporary architecture upon military industrial development in the 1950s along with information about the designers selected for the developments may provide the historical context necessary for listing on the National Register.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: _____


Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

9/3/03
Date


Reviewer, NR Program

3/11/03
Date

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

SM-543

Prepared by: Kristie Lalire

Date Prepared: 2/16/2003

SM-543

Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.



Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

[Go Back](#)
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Account Identifier: District - 06 Account Number - 045014

Owner Information

Owner Name: HOLLYWOOD WORSHIP CENTER
Use: EXEMPT COMMERCIAL
Principal Residence: NO
Mailing Address: PO BOX 753
 HOLLYWOOD MD 20636-0753
Deed Reference: 1) EWA/ 1143/ 1
 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address 26100 FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL RD
Zoning RPD
Legal Description 2.011 ACRES LOT 1
 E/S FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL RD
 OAKVILLE

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:	21 73
19	12	378					1	81	Plat Ref:	

Special Tax Areas Town Ad Valorem Tax Class FIRE DISTRICT 6

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
1980	1,056 SF	2.01 AC	
Stories 1	Basement NO	Type STANDARD UNIT	Exterior ASBESTOS SHINGLE

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2002	Phase-in Assessments As Of 07/01/2002	As Of 07/01/2003
Land:	54,400	172,200		
Improvements:	44,300	42,100		
Total:	98,700	214,300	137,233	175,766
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller: TAZELAAR, DONALD D	Date: 04/02/1997	Price: \$100,000
Type: MULT ACCTS ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: EWA/ 1143/ 1	Deed2:
Seller: WATSON, ALVA V JR	Date: 08/14/1984	Price: \$36,500
Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: MRB/ 190/ 255	Deed2: EWA/ 1128/ 388
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2002	07/01/2003
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: COUNTY AND STATE
Exempt Class: CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, & PARSONAGES

Special Tax Recapture:

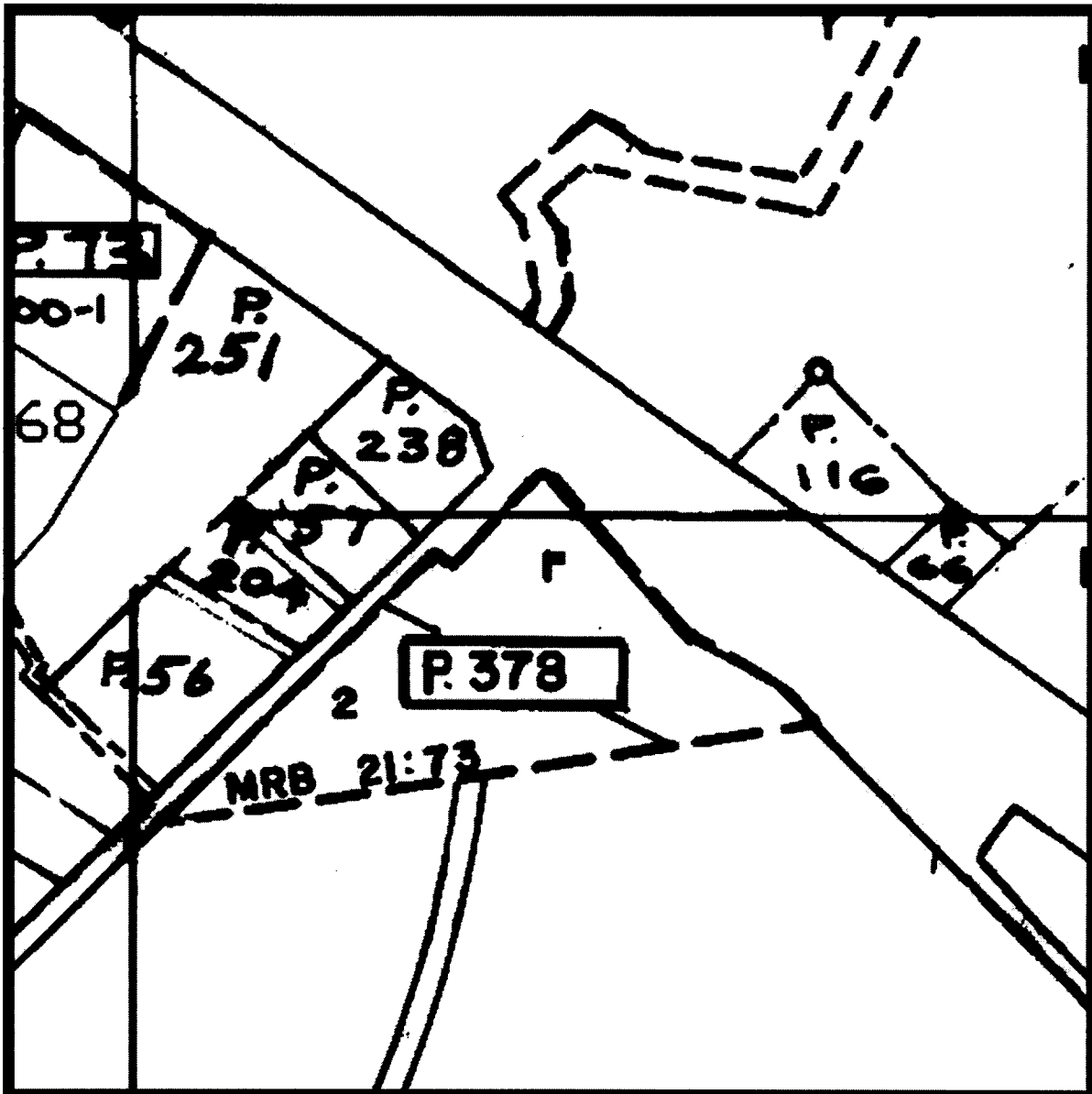
* NONE *



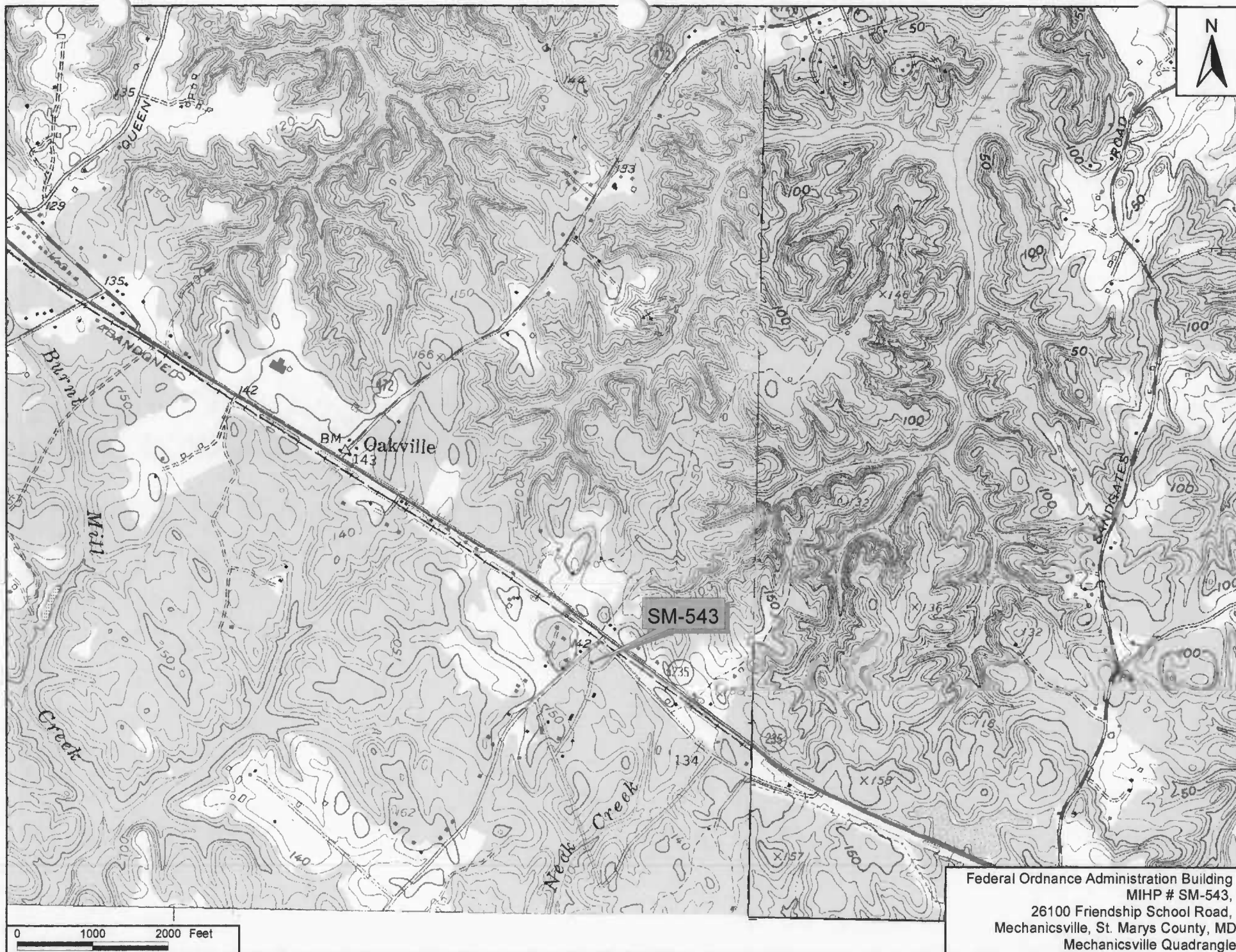
Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

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District - 06 Account Number - 045014



Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2001.
For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning
web site at www.mdp.state.md.us/webcom/index.html



Federal Ordnance Administration Building
MIHP # SM-543,
26100 Friendship School Road,
Mechanicsville, St. Marys County, MD
Mechanicsville Quadrangle



Federal Ordnance Administration Building
SM-543

26100 Friendship School Road

Mechanicsville, MD 20659

St. Marys County

photographed Kristie Loring 11/1/2003

Front elevation - facing Route 202,

facing south

(1) of 2



Federal Ordinance Administration Building

SN 242

26100 Friends ^{Highway} Road

Meriden, Conn. 06450

St. Marys County

photographer: Kristie Laline, 1/25/2003

front and side elevations - facing Route 235,
facing south.

(2 of 2)

— Capsule Summary
SM-543
Federal Ordnance Administration Building
Oakville Vicinity
Private

c. 1952-53

The Federal Ordnance Administration Building, constructed in 1952-1953, represents the only remaining building of a once extensive munitions manufacturing plant and testing facility. This assymetrically massed, one story, three part, frame building housed offices that oversaw purchasing, shipment scheduling, and accounting for Federal Ordnance Incorporated. Today, it represents a significant historic resource because of its association with the manufacturing of munitions during the 1950s for the Korean War, its large-scale employment of women in the county during war time, and finally its modern architectural design.

— In 1952 Federal Ordnance, Incorporated of New York, a private firm, announced its purchase of a large 800+ acre tract as the site for a brand new munitions manufacturing and testing facility. The tract included parcels called "Boston," "Sandy Grove," "Friendship," and "America Felix." The company had obtained a contract with the United States Navy to manufacture detonators, boosters, fuzes, flash tubes, powder rings, ignitors, and mechanical time fuzes and chose a site that could satisfy several of the company's needs. The company took advantage of the county's eager workforce and had visions of hiring between 500 and 1500 local citizens. In an interview conducted with Margaret Gass, an assembly line worker at the plant during the 1950s, she noted that a majority of the workers at the facility were in fact women. She remembered that men held most of the upper-level managerial positions overseeing quality control and safety. In 1955, the Hunter Company purchased the property and later sold it in 1959 to Morton-Thiokol Corporation who never actually operated the plant. The corporation demolished all of the factory and laboratory buildings in 1981 and subsequently began an extensive environmental cleanup of the site in order to eventually sell the property. Today, the building continues to be used by the Hollywood Worship Center.

—

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. SM-543

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Federal Ordnance Administration Building (pref)

and/or common Hunter Manufacturing Administration Building/Hollywood Worship Center

2. Location

SE corner of Friendship School Road and Maryland Route 235
street & number

☐ not for publication

city, town Oakville

☒ vicinity of

congressional district 6

state Maryland

county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Donald D. Tazelaar

street & number 7905 Hastings Lane

telephone no.:

city, town Clinton

state and zip code Md 20735-1538

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse

liber MRB 190

street & number

folio 255

city, town Leonardtown

state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-543

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: 1

The Federal Ordnance Administration Building is located at the southeast corner of Maryland Route 235 and Friendship School Road just south of Oakville, Maryland. Situated on a site facing the embankment for Route 235, this building represents the only structure left from an extensive munitions manufacturing plant located immediately to the south. An unused road runs south to the old site of the main factory area. This portion of the property has become thickly overgrown with young pine and deciduous trees. Another paved road traces the treeline immediately to the east of structure and is labelled "Road A" on the enclosed site plan of the entire site.

The Federal Ordnance Administration Building, constructed in 1952-1953, is a frame, one story, three room, single-pile, office building with asymmetrical massing and fenestration. While divided into three projecting sections, the building exhibits two, overlapping, low pitch roofs that slide to the north and south. The building is covered with vertical board siding as well as artificial siding, but all of the building rests on a cinder block foundation. Despite being divided into a three sections, the building appears to have been constructed all at one time.

The east or primary elevation is divided into three sections. The southern section is characterized by a large trapezoidal-shaped bay that consists of four large picture windows. Immediately below these windows are five sets of four light casement windows. This section is sheathed with vertical board siding. A wide fascia board projects over the front of this elevation and is part of a low sloping roof that falls to the south. This section of roof also covers the middle part of the building. The middle section is actually setback approximately two feet from the south section. The recess between the two sections contains a three foot high, brick planting bed. This middle section consists of another trapezoidal-shaped bay with three picture windows and a wood door with three stepped panes of glass at eye-level. The roof is cantilevered here over this entrance and requires a metal pole for support. The roof also extends over the low sloping roof of the north section. The north section is sheathed with artificial siding but contains no openings or bays.

The north elevation is sheathed with artificial siding. It is also pierced by five sets of four light casement windows that are located near the intersection of the overhanging roof and exterior wall.

The west elevation is also divided into three sections. The north section, like the north elevation exhibits four sets of four light, casement windows located just under the overhang of the roof. At the intersection of the north and middle section is an exterior brick chimney flue for an interior furnace. The middle section is pierced by a paired set of horizontal, four light casement windows for an internal furnace room and two, single, four light casement windows—one window each for interior bathrooms. The south section contains a four-light-above and three-panel-below wood door and the walls are sheathed with vertical boards.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-543

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Federal Ordnance Administration Building, constructed in 1952-1953, represents the only remaining building of a once extensive munitions manufacturing plant and testing facility. According to George Burch, an one-time employee of Federal Ordnance, the building housed offices that oversaw purchasing, shipment scheduling, and accounting. Most likely architect-designed, the one story building exhibits an asymmetrical massing and fenestration and an almost flat overhanging roof with a wide fascia board. These modern design characteristics make this structure a rare documented building type in St. Mary's County--resembling only the Naval housing located at Lexington Park (SM-490). The building, therefore, represents a significant historic resource not only for its architectural design, but also for its association with the manufacturing of munitions during the 1950s for the Korean War.

In 1952 Federal Ordnance, Incorporated of New York, a private firm, announced its purchase of a large 800+ acre tract as the site for a brand new munitions manufacturing and testing facility. The tract included parcels called "Boston," "Sandy Grove," "Friendship," and "America Felix." The company had obtained a contract with the United States Navy to manufacture detonators, boosters, fuzes, flash tubes, powder rings, ignitors, and mechanical time fuzes and chose a site that could satisfy several of the company's needs. Located between Route 235 and Friendship School Road, the site was conveniently located near the rail route between Washington, D. C. and the Patuxent Naval Air Station so supplies and products could be easily shipped. The company sought to take advantage of the county's eager workforce and had visions of hiring between 500 and 1500 local citizens. The company announced that its workforce would be composed of 25% women and 75% men. In an interview conducted with Margaret Gass, an assembly line worker at the plant during the 1950s, most of the workers at the facility were in fact women. She noted that men held most of the upper-level managerial positions overseeing quality control and safety. Curiously, a series of St. Mary's Beacon articles in 1953 noted that accidents occurred to several workers at the plant--all of them involving women. The unfortunate nature of these accidents was soon equaled by a large forest fire that erupted on the southern part of the Ordnance property in 1954. The blaze engulfed 700 acres in all--200 of which was owned by Federal Ordnance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-543

"Thiokol Property Site Investigation and Cleanup, St. Mary's County, Maryland" prepared for Thiokol Corporation, Ogden, UT, June 1995. G and E Engineering, Inc.
St. Mary's Beacon, November 21, 1952, March 13, 1953, May 1, 1953, May 15, 1953, April 15, 1954
February 24, 1955, September 1, 1955.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.01 acresQuadrangle name Leonardtown, MdQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed reference.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoningdate December 1996street & number 328 Washington Streettelephone (301) 475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-543, The Federal Ordnance Administration Building

St. Mary's County

7.1 Description

The south elevation, like the north elevation, exhibits five sets of four light casement windows--all located just under the overhanging roof. It is also sheathed with vertical boards.

The interior of building, like the exterior, is divided into three distinct sections. Since the office building is currently a worship center, the function of the interior spaces has changed. The middle entrance lobby permits entry into all interior rooms. This middle section contains doors to two small restrooms, a furnace room, and the two other sections. The north section is presently used as a worship space, while the southern section is currently used for an office. According to Reverend Cleveland Hall, the congregation would like to eventually add a larger worshiping space to the south side of the building.

SM-543, Federal Ordnance Administration Building
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

The checkered safety record of Federal Ordnance was slightly improved in 1955 when the Hunter Company purchased the property and continued to operate the facility until the late 1950s. In 1959, the Morton-Thiokol Corporation purchased the site but never actually operated the plant. The corporation demolished all of the factory and laboratory buildings in 1981 and subsequently began an extensive environmental cleanup of the site in order to eventually sell the property. During the 1950s Federal Ordnance had randomly buried hundreds of five-gallon buckets filled with potentially dangerous unexploded munitions throughout the entire property. In the 1990s, the firm hired G & E Engineering, Incorporated to conduct a more thorough investigation and cleanup. Using a variety of means, the firm removed 1,400 pounds of hazardous waste and reactive components.

Today, the administration building represents the only reminder of one of the largest manufacturing facilities in St. Mary's County in the 1950s. The building continues to be used by the Hollywood Worship Center.

SM-543, Federal Ordnance Administration Building
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Chain-of-Title (Please note that all deeds were found in the Land Records located in the St. Mary's County Courthouse in Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 190, Folio 255
Grantee: Donald D. Tazelaar, etal
Grantor: Alva V. Watson, Jr.
Date: August 14, 1984
Note: Tazelaar purchased two, 2.01 acre tracts.

Reference: Liber MRB 182, Folio 46
Grantee: Alva V. Watson and Thomas B. Watts
Grantor: Thiokol Chemical Corporation
Date: March 2, 1984
Note: These two, 2.01 acre tracts were purchased for \$15,000.

Reference: Liber CBG 73, Folio 419
Grantee: Thiokol Chemical Corporation
Grantor: Emilie Corporation of Delaware (aka Hunter Bristol and Hunter Manufacturing Corporation)
Date: March 12, 1958
Note: Here the property consists of 789.98 acres and includes tracts named "Boston," "Sandy Grove," "Friendship," and "America Felix."

Reference: Liber CBG 59, Folio 389
Grantee: Hunter Manufacturing Corporation
Grantor: Federal Ordnance of New York
Date: October 3, 1955

Reference: Liber CBG 59, Folio 386
Grantee: Federal Ordnance of New York
Grantor: George A. and Ruth E. Owens and Bernard and Juliette M. Tessler
Date: April 28, 1955

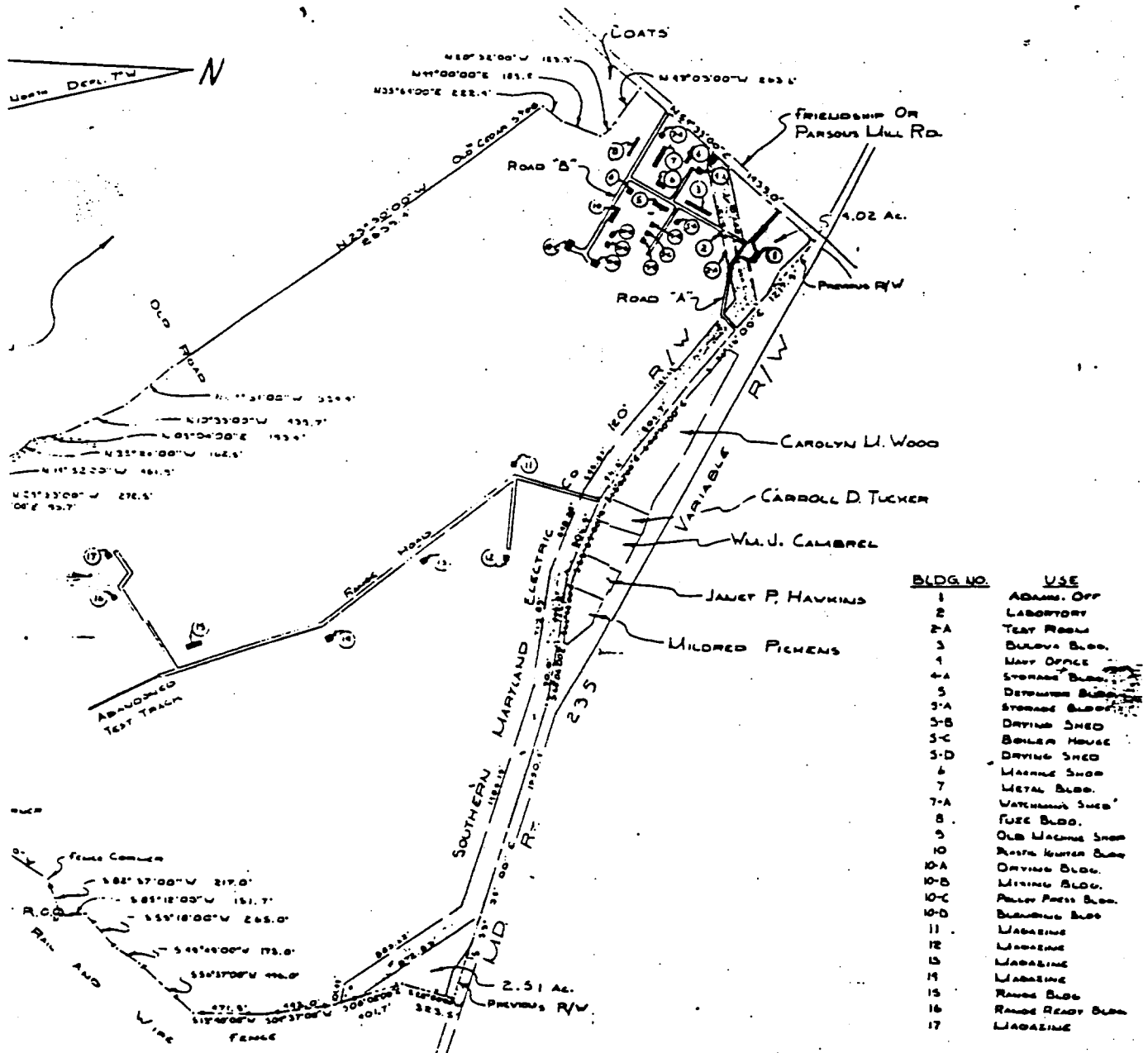
Reference: Liber CBG 59, Folio 383
Grantee: George A. and Ruth E. Owens and Bernard and Juliette M. Tessler
Grantor: Leonardtown Realty Company (80 Broad Street in Manhattan, New York)
Date: April 28, 1955

Reference: Liber CBG 59, Folio 379
Grantee: Leonardtown Realty Company
Grantor: Norman B. Sobler
Date: April 27, 1955

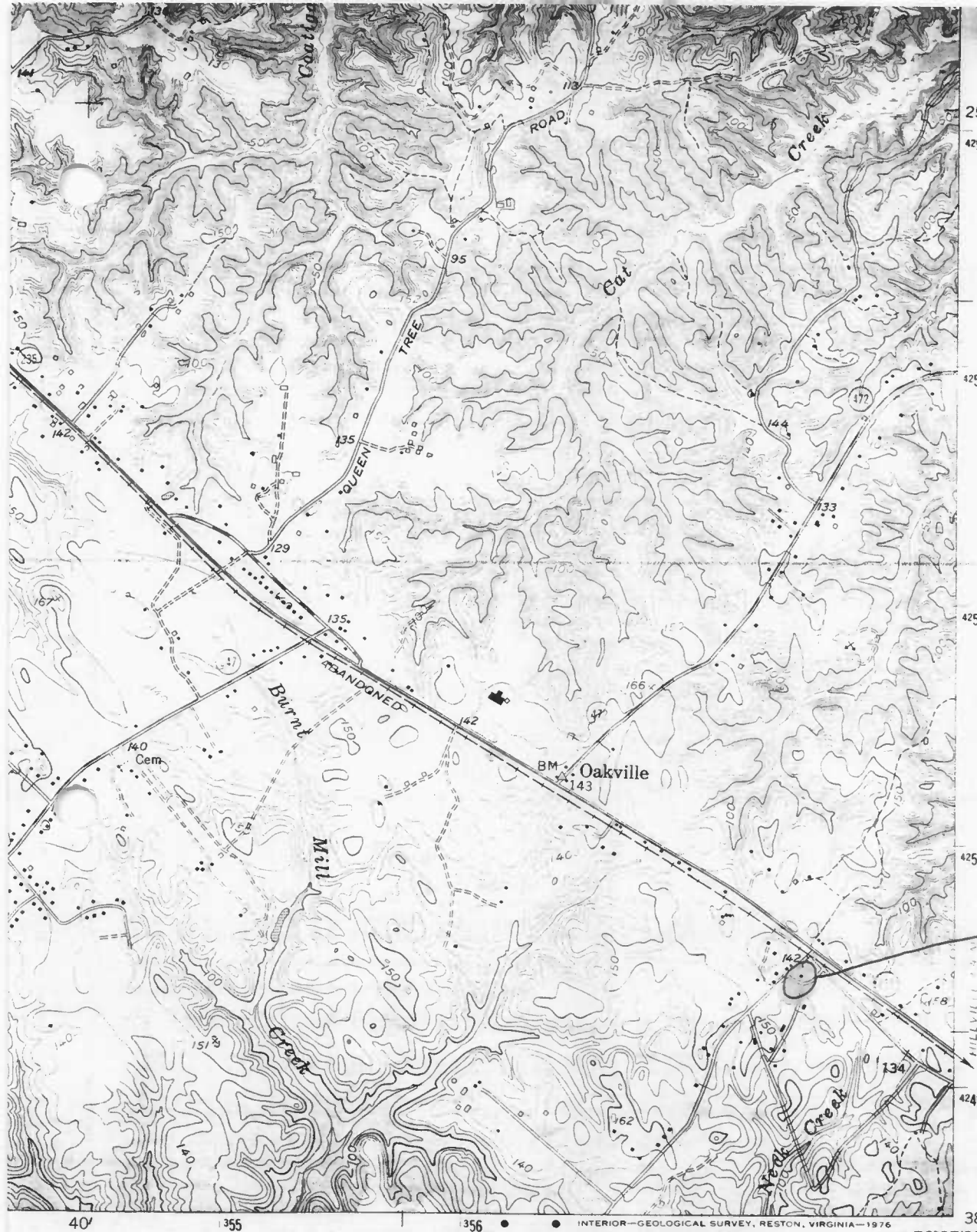
Reference: Liber CBG 40, Folio 34
Grantee: Norman B. Sobler of New York
Grantor: C. L. Robey of Loudon County
Date: September 26, 1952

Note: This deed represents the first of many that eventually led up to the purchase of the property by Federal Ordnance.

SM-543, Federal Ordnance Administration Building
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance



Plat dated December 2, 1980 by J. R. McCrone, Jr. Incorporated showing the entire munitions complex. The plat notes the name of each individual building and also notes that the property line was compiled from the W. L. Bowman plat dated January, 1955. The administration building is labeled "Building #1" and is located on the north corner of the property.



Federal
Ordnance Adm Bldg
SM-543

HILLVILLE 3.4 MI
POINT LOOKOUT 1.1 MI

38°22'30"
76°37'30"

(HOLLYWOOD)
5660 / SE

1 MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route State Route



MECHANICSVILLE, MD.
NW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3822.5—W 7637.5 / 7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5660 I NW—SERIES V833

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1976
357000m E



